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KNIGHTS OF THE
OLD REPUBLIC

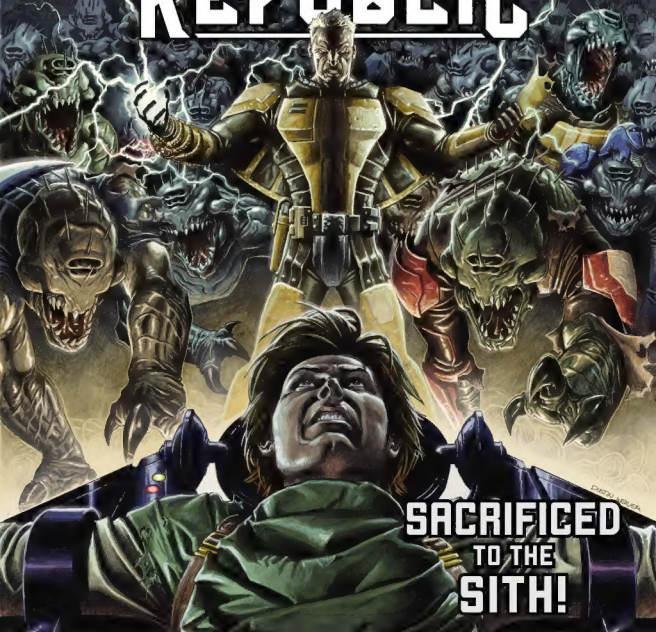
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**STAR
WARS**

KNIGHTS OF THE OLD REPUBLIC



**SACRIFICED
TO THE
SITH!**

VECTOR

PART
3
OF
TWELVE

STAR WARS®

KNIGHTS OF THE OLD REPUBLIC

SCRIPT
JOHN JACKSON
MILLER

PENCILS
SCOTT HEPBURN

INKS
DAN PARSONS

COLORS
MICHAEL ATIYEH

LETTERING
MICHAEL HEISLER

COVER ART
DUSTIN WEAVER

"VECTOR" PART 3

The Covenant, a secret organization within the Jedi Order, charges operative Celeste Morne with a difficult mission: find the Muur Talisman—a potentially dangerous Sith artifact in the middle of a war zone—before the nomadic Mandalorians!



THE OLD REPUBLIC
(25,000–1,000 YEARS
BEFORE THE BATTLE OF YAVIN)

The Old Republic was the legendary government that united a galaxy under the rule of the Senate. In this era, the Jedi are numerous, and serve as guardians of peace and justice. The Tales of the Jedi comics series takes place in this era, chronicling the immense wars fought by the Jedi of old, and the ancient Sith.

The events in this story take place approximately 3,963 years before the Battle of Yavin.

Instead, Celeste discovers former Padawan Zayne Carrick and conartist Gryph, two fugitives on the run from her own Masters. And she finds that Pulsipher, the Mandalorians' lead scientist, already has the Talisman!

Tracking Pulsipher, the trio sees one disturbing thing after another. The Talisman bonds with Pulsipher—and those around him begin to transform into Rakghouls, savage beasts who create additional monsters through their infected bites. And these Rakghouls are able to use modern weapons—no good thing on a planet full of soldiers, ready to invade Alderaan . . .

DESIGNER KRISTAL HENNES ASSISTANT EDITORS FREDDOYE LINS AND DAVE MARSHALL EDITOR RANDY STRADLEY PUBLISHER MIKE RICHARDSON

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DON'T
LET 'EM
FANG YAI!

RAARRRRHHH!!



GAAHH!
IT BIT
THROUGH THE
ARMOR!



BLAST
THAT
THING!

NO
MATE--



--BLAST
YOU!



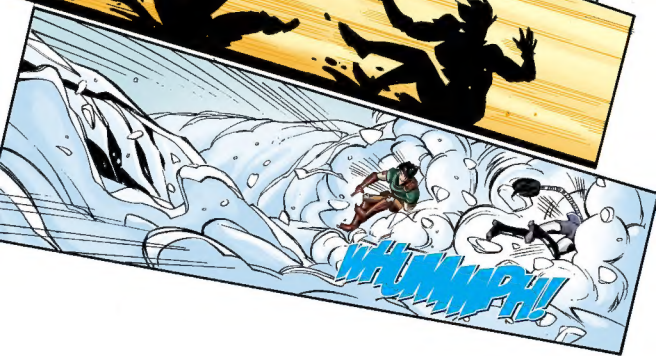
YAAARRGH!



SOMETHING
ELSE'S COMING!

ANYONE
COULD BE
INFECTED. SHOOT
ANYTHING THAT
MOVES!

RRRRRRRR





FROM NOW
ON, I PICK
THE ESCAPE
ROUTES.

MY MASTER
LUCIEN USED TO
SAY, "ANY ESCAPE
YOU CAN WALK AWAY
FROM... WASN'T
PLANNED BY ZAYNE
CARRICK."

I HOPE
GRYPH IS
OKAY UP
THERE.



ZAYNE,
NOTHING ABOUT
YOU TRACKS! YOU'RE
LUCKY TO OPEN A DOOR
WITHOUT KNOCKING
YOURSELF OUT.

WHY WOULD
THEY SAY YOU
KILLED YOUR
CLASSMATES
ON TARIS?

IT WAS
MY TEACHERS.
THEY'RE IN SOME
SECRET JEDI CABAL,
WATCHING FOR
THE RETURN OF
THE 6TH.

WHEN THEY
HAD A PROPHECY
THAT ONE OF US
WOULD BRING DOWN
THE ORDER, THEY
DID SOMETHING
ABOUT IT.



WAIT.
YOU'RE SAYING
YOUR **MASTERS**
KILLED THEIR
OWN STUDENTS?
AND FRAMED **YOU**?



THAT'S
LUDICROUS!
THAT'S --



THAT'S
MY LIFE.

I NEVER
GAVE THEM ANY
REASON TO THINK
I'D BE CAPABLE OF
EVIL -- BUT THEY'VE
BEEN HUNTING ME
EVER SINCE.



BUT I'M
NOT SITTING
STILL.



THE WAR'S
GOTTEN IN THE
WAY, BUT I'M GOING
TO CLEAR MY NAME.
I'M DISCOVERING
MORE ALL THE
TIME.

I EVEN
KNOW THAT
LUCIEN REPORTS
TO SOMEONE,
NOW--

--KRYNDA.
ANY IDEA WHO
THAT IS?

UHM...
NO.

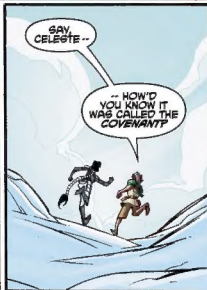


ZAYNE,
MAYBE-- MAYBE IF
THERE IS SOME JEDI
COVENANT, THEY THINK
THEY'RE DOING THE
RIGHT THING FOR
EVERYONE.

MAYBE
THEY SHOULD
WORRY ABOUT
RUNNING THEIR
OWN LIVES. MINE IS
PLENTY ENOUGH
TROUBLE FOR
ME.



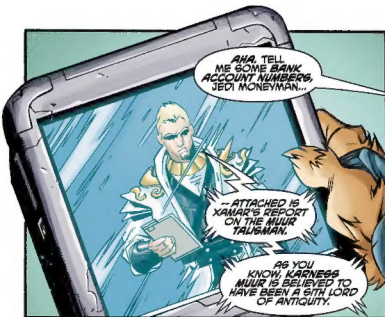
ANYWAY-- THERE'S THE COMMUNICATIONS
DOME. WE SHOULD WARN THE REPUBLIC
ABOUT THE MANDALORIANS AND THE
RAKGHOU PLAGUE!



SAY,
CELESTE--

-- HOW'D
YOU KNOW IT
WAS CALLED THE
COVENANT?

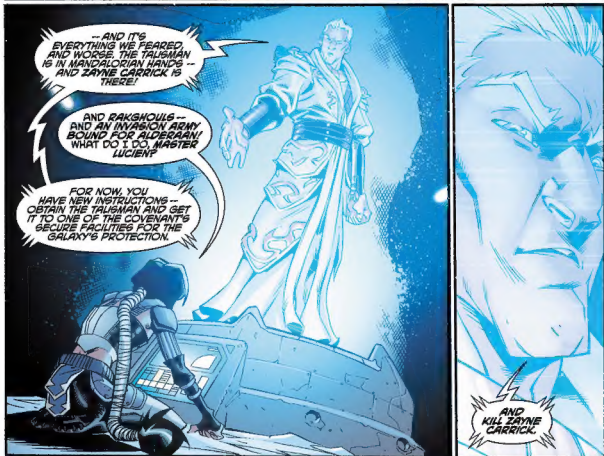






"... AND CELESTE
WORKS FOR LUCIEN!"

WE'VE
WAITED LONG
FOR YOUR REPORT,
AGENT --



-- AND IT'S
EVERYTHING WE FEARED,
AND WORSE. THE TALISMAN
IS IN HANDELOVIAN HANDS --
AND ZAYNE CARRICK IS
THERE!

AND RAKSHOULS --
AND AN INVASION ARMY
BOUND FOR ALDERAAN!
WHAT DO I DO, MASTER
LUCIEN?

FOR NOW, YOU
HAVE NEW INSTRUCTIONS --
OBTAIN THE TALISMAN AND GET
IT TO ONE OF THE COVENANT'S
SECURE FACILITIES FOR THE
GALAXY'S PROTECTION.

AND
KILL ZAYNE
CARRICK.



NOW,
WITHOUT
DELAY.

OF
COURSE,
I --

-- I'M NOT
SURE THAT'S
THE RIGHT THING
TO DO.



WE KNOW
THE RIGHT THING
TO DO, CELESTE.
YOU KNOW THAT.
IT IS WHY YOU
JOINED US.

REMEMBER
YOUR FAMILY
LOSING EVERYTHING
ON OSSUS IN THE
SITH WAR. ROAMING
HOMELESS FOR
YEARS, BEFORE
FALLING APART.



WE BECAME YOUR
FAMILY - AND OUR VIGIL
AGAINST THE SITH BECAME
YOURS. ALL YOUR TRAINING
HAS LED TO THIS
MOMENT.

DO NOT BE
FOOLED. ZAYNE IS
A TRICKSTER AND
A MURDERER, AND
HE WILL DO MORE
DAMAGE THAN YOU
CAN IMAGINE.

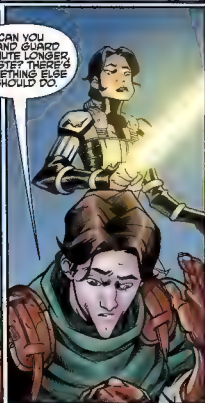


MAY THE
FORCE BE
WITH YOU.

CORUSCANT
OUT.



HEY,
WAS THAT
CORUSCANT?





GO, THE
REPUBLIC
RENEGADE.
WHAT DO YOU
WANT?

THERE ISN'T
MUCH TIME. THE
RAKGHOUL PLAGUE
HAS BROKEN OUT
ON JEBBLE!

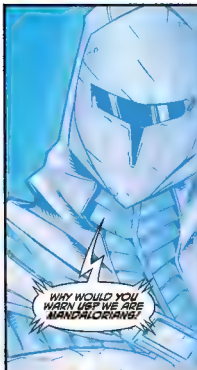
ATTEMPT
NO LANDINGS
HERE -- AND DON'T
LET ANYONE HERE
OFF THE SHIP
THEY'RE ON
NOW!

NONSENSE.
OUR COMM STATION
THERE HAS SAID
NOTHING --

I'M IN YOUR
COMM STATION!
YOU'VE GOT TO
BELIEVE ME! IF THE
INFECTION GETS ONTO
YOUR TRANSPORTS,
IT COULD SPREAD
EVERYWHERE!

YOU ARE
JUST TRYING
TO SAVE YOUR
WORLDS FROM
US.

YES --
BUT I'M
ALSO TRYING
TO SAVE YOUR
WORLDS. DON'T
LAND, SURVEY
FIRST, YOU'LL
SEE!



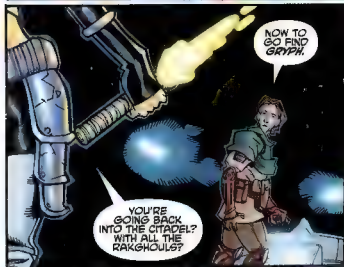
WHY WOULD YOU
WARN US? WE ARE
MANDALORIANS!



YOU'RE
PEOPLE.



WE'LL SEE
FETT OUT.



NOW TO
GO FIND
GRYPH.

YOU'RE
GOING BACK
INTO THE CITADEL?
WITH ALL THE
RAKGHOULS?



YEAH, IT
DOESN'T SEEM
SMART, DOES IT?
BUT IT'S WHAT
WE DO.



"MAY THE
FORCE BE
WITH YOU."

YEAH...

I
THOUGHT
IT WAS.



INSIDE
PULPHEA'S
LABORATORY...

WHAT--
WHAT DO
YOU WANT
WITH ME?

WHY, I
WANT TO THANK
YOU--ZAYNE
CARRICK.

YES, I KNOW
WHO YOU ARE.
I HEARD YOUR
BROADCAST. I OWE
YOU THANKS FOR
TAKING DEMAGOL
OUT OF MY PATH,
WHEN LAST WE
MET.

EVEN IF
MANDALORE HAS
NEVER GIVEN ME THE
SAME RESPECT, IT'S AS
IF HE THINKS DEMAGOL
WILL RISE FROM
THE DEAD!





AND NOW
HE SHOWS
RESOURCES ON
THAT THUNDERING
OAF, CASSUS
FETT.



DID YOU
REALLY THINK
FETT WOULD HEED
YOU? HE KNOWS YOU
WERE WITH THE PARTY
THAT TRIED TO KILL
HIM ON TATOOINE!

A SHAME THEY
FAILED, BUT I'LL PUT
FETT IN HIS PLACE
SOON ENOUGH.

PULGIPHER,
YOU CAN'T LET THE
RAKGHOUHS NEAR
THE TRANSPORTS!
THEY'LL --



DO WHAT?
TURN THE OCCUPANTS
INTO MINDLESS KILLING
MACHINES? AS YOU CAN SEE,
THEY ARE VERY MUCH
NOT MINDLESS.

THEY MAY
EVEN BE ABLE
TO OPERATE THOSE
TRANSPORTS -- WITH
YOUR HELP.



MINE?



WHAT DO
YOU KNOW OF THE
TAUSMAN? WHAT ARE
ITS OTHER FUNCTIONS?
HOW DO I ACCESS
THEM?



I DON'T
KNOW ANYTHING
ABOUT IT!

COME, NOW.
YOU FOLLOWED
ME HERE, JEDI. YOU
MUST KNOW --



OR
IS THERE
SOMEONE
ELSE HERE,
WITH YOU?



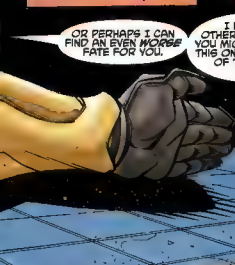
I MUST KNOW. I CAN *SEE* THE TALISMAN IN MY MIND. I'VE BARELY TOUCHED ITS TRUE POWER!



I CAN COMPLETE THE MANDO'ADE'S CRUSADE -- BRING *EVERY* LIVING THING INTO MY CLAN -- IF ONLY I HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE!

IT'S BURNING YOU OUT! YOU'VE GOT TO GET RID OF IT!

NO! YOU'LL TELL ME WHAT YOU KNOW -- OR I'LL HAVE MY COLLEAGUES HERE TEAR YOU APART.



OR PERHAPS I CAN FIND AN EVEN *WORSE* FATE FOR YOU.

I HAVE FOUND OTHER SITH ARTIFACTS YOU MIGHT ENJOY. I CALL THIS ONE THE *CUBLETTE* OF THE 6TH LORD DREYPA.

INSIDE IT, YOU WOULD ENDOURE A LIVING DEATH. NO SENSOR COULD PIERCE IT TO FIND A HINT OF YOUR EXISTENCE --

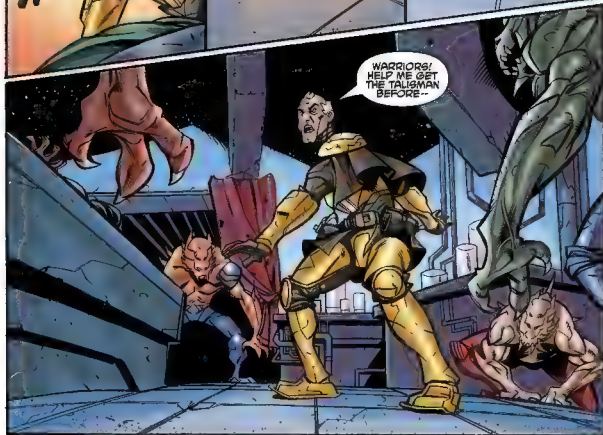
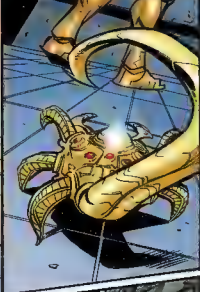
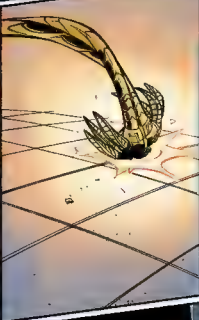
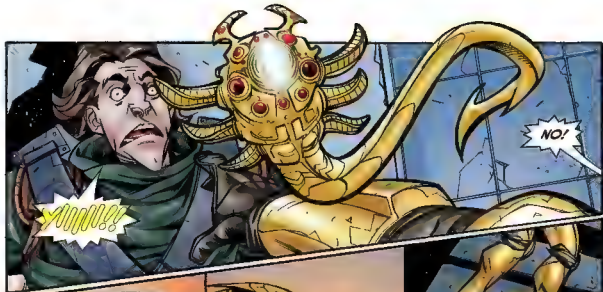


-- BUT YOU WOULD KNOW, LIVING INSIDE IN THE DARKNESS FOR AS LONG AS I COMMAND.

I COULD LEAVE YOU UNTIL THE STARS THEMSELVES WINK OUT OF EXISTENCE AND THE GALAXY COLLAPSES ON --



-- ITSELF?





ZAVNE!
IT'S ME!
WHERE'S
THE TALISMAN?
HAVE YOU
FOUND IT?

I THINK
IT'S FOUND
ME!





